

that far. The Weldon bill will say, stop this cloning business, just stop it, and use these remarkable breakthroughs, instead.

In fact, let me tell the Members what they did in one case, quickly. They used these cells taken from a pancreas that was diabetic, and then they grew insulin-producing islets inside that pancreas using these cells, not stem cells, but these cells that exist already in the body.

Mr. Speaker, there are ways for us to get these answers without messing with cloning. These cells are human beings. We ought to pass this bill today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO).

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to read a list of people who are interested in this bill, more for the people who may be watching this than for the people in this room. Most of us know who is on which side.

The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the American Association of Medical Colleges, the Alliance for Aging Research, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Optometry, the American Association of Cancer Research, the American Association of Anatomists, and on and on and on.

Most of these organizations, all of these organizations, are populated by people who, for the most part, are much more knowledgeable about the details than any of us.

I know there are many people on this floor today who know more about this issue on specifics than I do, and I respect that; but it is really not about the details, it is really about the future. That is what it is all about.

I cannot, and most of us are totally incapable of knowing everything we want to know about science, especially in the short period of time we have to learn it. But when I see a list of people like this, all of whom want to continue research unfettered by government, many of whom are not engaged in stem cell research; they may be at some future point, but many of them are not. Most genetic research right now is not related to stem cell research, not yet. It may never be. Stem cells is just another potential. That is all it is at the moment.

For us to sit here today and tell the scientists of America, and particularly the scientists of the world, because it will not stop, it will simply move offshore, that this Congress, most of whom are generalists on different areas or specialists in other areas, that this Congress is going to tell them stop, really puts us in the exact same position as legislators and clergy in the Middle Ages when they said, Do not do autopsies. It is immoral; it is unethical. We do not like it. Do not cut those bodies open. Yet men and women did it, to our great benefit today.

It is an old story; it is not a new story. It is not just isolated; it has happened throughout the ages. Not very long ago, in my lifetime, we had people in this country who said, The polio vaccine might cause trouble because it is really dead polio stuff. Yet in my family we lost a young girl to polio, and we saved my brother based on research that some people in those days condemned.

X-rays, we take them as common today. There were many people when x-rays were first invented who said, Oh, my God, we cannot do that. It was not meant for man to see through someone's body. We do it today with impunity. These same issues are arising again today. We should not substitute our general opinion that we are not even sure about for the future of science and for the health of our children and grandchildren.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE).

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into a colloquy with my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON).

I would ask the gentleman to correct me if I am wrong, but it seems to me the gentleman's bill makes illegal the creation of a blastocyst for either reproductive or therapeutic cloning. Is that correct?

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GANSKE. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. I would say to the gentleman, yes, that is correct.

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the gentleman another question. I wrote an op ed piece that said, "Let me make my position absolutely clear. I oppose the cloning of human beings. I favor Federal funding of stem cell research. The potential this research has to cure disease and alleviate human suffering leads me to believe this is a pro-life position."

My question to the gentleman from Florida is this: What about those fertilized eggs that are not created for research purposes, that are in fertility clinics that are not being used? Does the gentleman's bill make it illegal to use those blastocysts for stem cell research?

Mr. WELDON of Florida. If the gentleman will yield further, no, it does not.

Mr. GANSKE. I thank the gentleman. I want to be absolutely clear on this.

I ask the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON), does he think one can be consistent in being for Federal funding for stem cell research and also being in favor of the gentleman's bill?

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Yes.

□ 1400

Mr. GANSKE. And would the gentleman say that the reason for that is that his bill is focusing primarily on

the initial creation of this blastocyst or the equivalent of a fertilized egg and the problems that that would have because we would be basically creating an embryo for research?

Mr. WELDON of Florida. If the gentleman would continue to yield, yes, the threshold we are being asked to cross is no longer just using the embryos that are in the IVF clinics but actually creating embryos for destructive research service.

Mr. GANSKE. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I believe there are ethical considerations that enter to the creation of an embryo for research purposes, and that is why I will support the Weldon bill. And I will vote against the Greenwood substitute, and I thank the gentleman.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH).

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and I am going to use this time really to respond to some of the statements that my colleagues have made in support of the Weldon bill as recently as the last speaker.

Let me again really focus this debate so Members know exactly what they are voting on. It has been presented that the Weldon bill does not stop stem cell research. Well, I do not believe that is true, and I think the facts bear out that that is not true.

This issue is intricately intertwined with stem cell research, and Members need to understand that is what we are voting on. Because just like organ transplants, the organs that can be transplanted have no use if the body is going to reject them. And what I want each of us as Members to think about, and I think my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), did this as well as I have heard anyone ever do on this floor, think about some of the most awful stories of the human condition, of real people, and each of us have heard these stories, whether on a personal basis or whether as a Member of Congress.

I have the numbers here: 24 million people with diabetes, 15 million with cancer, 6 million with Alzheimer's, 1 million people with Parkinson's. Those are obviously large numbers. But I ask each of my colleagues to think of one person, maybe a grandmother or a grandfather, a father, a mother, a friend who had one of these diseases. And what we would be doing today if we passed the Weldon bill would be taking away their hope of stopping their pain and their suffering. That is the choice in front of us. That truly is the choice in front of us.

We do not have that cure yet. But we all know, all of us have heard and read the specifics of where the research is, and it is there. It might not be there tomorrow, but it is there. We would stop all this research. All of it. All of it. Not Federal funding, but all of it. Private funding, Federal funding. Criminalize it, and all of this research would stop under the Weldon bill.